

**CHAPTER NO. 980****SENATE BILL NO. 2981****By Bowers, Burks****Substituted for: House Bill No. 3109****By Cooper, Miller, Larry Turner, Marrero, Ulysses Jones, Rowe, Favors, Lois DeBerry**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to lottery scholarships and grants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 49-4-9\_\_.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this part to the contrary, a student who is eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship upon graduation from high school, completion of high school in a Tennessee home school, or obtaining a GED, but, who instead of applying for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, applies to and enrolls in a Tennessee technology center and receives a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant, shall continue to be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship; provided, that the student:

(1) Applies for a HOPE scholarship and enrolls in an eligible postsecondary institution within three (3) years of completing a diploma from a Tennessee technology center consisting of at least nine hundred (900) clock hours;

(2) Is not ineligible for a HOPE scholarship under § 49-4-904; and

(3) Meets the requirements of § 49-4-905(a).


(b) The provisions of this section shall also apply to students who are eligible for General Assembly Merit Scholarships and Tennessee HOPE access grants.

(c) Hours taken by a student at a Tennessee technology center towards a diploma before receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, General Assembly Merit Scholarship, or Tennessee HOPE access grant under the provisions of this section shall not count under the provisions of § 49-4-913 or § 49-4-920 as semester hours attempted for the purposes of calculating the number of semester hours for which a student may receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, General Assembly Merit Scholarship, or Tennessee HOPE access grant. The five-year limitation on the receipt of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall not begin to run for a student receiving a HOPE scholarship under the provisions of this section until the student's initial enrollment at any postsecondary institution other than a Tennessee technology center.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 27, 2006

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 2006

  
PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR